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FOR BRYAN.

John M. Wright, a Former Citizen
of this place, Bolts.

The Following is an Article Written by
him to the Editor of the San
Francisco Examiner.

Sir:—On a recent occasion I said: "When we reflect that in the domain of diplomacy the simple writing of a letter by an American president to an American congress resulted in the immediate surrender of a cherished and vaunted policy by the proudest and most aggressive nation on earth, it is no longer difficult to believe that in the world of finance the power of this nation is equally understood and feared. The United States and not England should be and will be the world's arbiter in finance and in business as well as in war."

Until the late republican convention I believe this proud consummation would be wrought by the republican party through the establishment of independent bimetallism as the cornerstone of our financial policy. But that belief has been shattered by the unexpected declaration of the party in convention assembled, for the abject surrender of our independence—a declaration which has awakened in the minds of thoughtful men the question whether financial independence is not quite as important as political independence, and whether the one can certainly be maintained without the other. I cannot follow the party in this step and I must mistake my countrymen if more than a small minority will be found to approve such a course.

I shall vote for Mr. Bryan. I believe the tangles caused by the action of the populist convention at St. Louis will be untangled in time and that Mr. Bryan will be overwhelmingly elected.

The movement, in my opinion, is best described by the name of "new democracy." I think it means that the people generally have determined to reassert and exercise in their own way the power which of late years has been wielded by the "bosses" alone, and I expect to see a "landslide" in the direction of Bryan. In ancient times it used to be said, "make way for the repre-

sentatives of the people." In these later days obstructors may well take heed when, as now, arises the more significant cry, "make way for the people."

As to Mr. Bryan himself I have the highest opinion of his abilities. His work at Chicago was not an accident. He has done similar things before, notably at the trans-Mississippi congress in St. Louis, in 1894. And it was recently said by one who knows him well, that if it were possible to gather together in one great hall the 12,000,000 of voters of the United States, so they could hear Mr. Bryan through a twenty-minutes address, the election would be over. I may be over enthusiastic about Mr. Bryan, but I believe he is destined to be known in history as one of the greatest men of this age. In times peace probably no man can reach such a height as that which Mr. Lincoln attained, but Mr. Bryan will get as far into the hearts of the people as any man can get, excepting in time of when public events of a more dramatic character stir the souls of men to their utmost depths. Whittier spoke of Greeley as "our later Franklin." In the same way people are already talking of Mr. Bryan as "our later Lincoln"; but being a democrat perhaps he will be more fitly canonized among political saints by bracketing his name with the names of Jefferson and Jackson. Grover Cleveland aspired to that place, the place which Bryan will win in the estimation of impartial history.

As to the crisis itself, Mr. Teller has described it as I understand it, in his speech on the occasion of his withdrawal from the St. Louis convention, and in his more recent declaration of principle. And I believe that if through any accident this opportunity shall be lost to the people, a satisfactory degree of prosperity will not be gained for a generation to come. On the other hand, I believe that the free coinage of silver will result in stability of values, a gradual rise in prices, a more general distribution of wealth, the complete development of our Rocky Mountain empire, the permanent transfer of the political balance of power to the west, and development of our manufactures, and in general of all our industrial resources much greater than would be accomplished by the enactment of the

strongest protection law the people would permit to stand on the statute books.

I think the tendency to centralization, the development of which began with the necessities of 1861, has reached its culmination in the acts of Grover Cleveland, a president nominally democratic. At first thought this is one of the most singular contradictions in American politics, for home rule is now, as it always has been, the very foundation stone of democracy.

But Cleveland is not a democrat, though he so calls himself, and he is not a republican, for no republican president ever dared or desired to exercise the unconstitutional powers which have lately become as familiar as household words. Certainly if the time has come when a president can force his own individual views upon an unwilling congress, and can dictate to our courts how they shall determine the law, and can nullify a statute because it did not meet with his approval, and can unnecessarily increase the bonded debt of the nation at his pleasure, and, worse of all, can haul down the American flag, and all unrepined by any power superior to his own, we are indeed fallen upon grievous times, and a condition which to my mind very nearly resembles not a mere monarchy, but imperialism. But it is still true under our flag that the people are greater than any man, however they may have honored him, and it is largely because the Chicago convention administered so sharp a rebuke to the president guilty of the acts that I have enumerated, that I consider it the greatest representative body that has assembled in this nation within my recollection.

Whether I shall ever again vote the republican ticket will depend on future events. Should McKinley and the gold programme succeed, I believe I will take as the remainder of my life at least to undo the evil that will result, and so, if McKinley be elected, I shall probably never again vote the republican ticket. But the people will succeed in their present purpose, and as the republican party has never been slow to learn, I have no doubt that four years hence will see the chastened party come forth under the banner of a new republicanism, as comprehensive and significant in its promise as is now this new democracy. JOHN M. WRIGHT.